I request the Government of India that keeping in view the international importance of Ajmer, a new train should be introduced immediately on Ajmer-Jaipur-Alwar-Delhi broad gauge line, so that common people could be benefitted by it. This train will prove beneficial for Railways as well as the passengers from lower and middle classes.

(iv) Need to provide compensation to the victims of Rail Tragedy at Cheppad in Kerala on 14 May, 1996.

[English]

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppey) : Sir, a serious situation prevails due to rail-bus tragedy that occurred at Cheppad near Haripad in my constituency Alapuzha, Kerala on May 14, 1996 resulting in the death of 36 persons and serious injuries to eight others.

The Cheppad tragedy is one of the worst in recent times People of this area have been clamouring for a manned-gate at this railway level crossing.

There are 58 unmanned level crossings in this coastal railway line between Ernakulam and Kayamkulam. The majority of these level crossings are highly dangerous spots and real death traps. The local people have been pointing out to the dangerous nature of these level crossings where an accident of serious dimension could occur any time. But the railway authorities seem to be indifferent to this just demand of the local people.

I urge upon the hon. Minister of Railways to sanction at least one lakh rupees each to the dependants of those died and reasonable amount of relief to the injured. I also request the Government to take immediate steps to instal manned gates at all the vulnerable and dangerous level crossings in this thickly populated area.

I make use of this occasion to express my sincere thanks to the hon. Prime Minister for sanctioning Rs. 48,000/- each to the families of the deceased persons from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. Though it is a considerable relief, the Railways should also fulfil their obligation considering the poor condition of the affected families.

(v) Need to restore eight hour a day duty for workers of National Jute Mill at Howrah, West Bengal.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Sir, the largest public sector Jute mill in India is the National Jute Mill at Howrah within Sankrail Police Station. In the last week, the workers' legitimate right to work for eight hours has been reduced to five hours to deprive them of their due wages.

I request the Central Government to immediately intervene and restore eight hours duty of the workers without any further delay. Export initiative and better marketing policy of the jute goods should be looked into from a fresh angle.

(vi) Need to Re-introduce local telephone facility at Pupri and Sitamarhi telephone exchanges, Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Pupri division is under Sitamarhi district of Bihar. Its headquarters is also in Pupri itself. There was local telephone diallilng facility in Pupri and Sitamarhi Telephone Exchanges upto January 1996, which had benefited the local people. But since February 1996, this local telephone dialling facility has been withdrawn and Pupri and Sitamarhi have been linked with STD lines. It has resulted in resentment among the people. The distance between Sitamarhi and Pupri is just 25 kms. All other districts of the state have local telephone dialling facility. Therefore, the facility of local telephone for the benefit of common people at Pupri and Sitamarhi Telephone Exchanges should be restored. Sonbarsa, Parihar, Sursand, Bajpatti and Runnisaidpur sub-divisions fall under Sitamarhi district. All the sub division telephone exchanges have single line service with Sitamarhi. As a result, people face difficulty in contacting on telephones. It is, therefore, requested that 10 Channel U.S.F. system may also be installed at the earliest in all the sub-divisional exchanges of Sitamarhi in the public interest.

(vii) Need for early payment of dues to sugarcane growers in Dumariaganj, U.P.

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Dumariaganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, sugarcane growers in my parliamentary constituency, Dumariaganj are in a deplorable condition. In 1995-96 Tulsipur sugarmill and Khalilabad sugarmill owed Rs. 29 lakh and Rs. 20 lakh respectively to the Badhti Sugarcane Cooperative Society of farmers and so far it has not received even a single instalment towards payment of farerms' dues. Moreover, as against an offer for supply of one lakh and six thousand quintal of sugarcane, only 39,000 quintal sugarcane has been purchased. Rest of the sugarcane had to be burnt, in the fields. The farmers are thus, suffering both ways. The farmers of Basti districts are also facing the same problem.

I, therefore, request the Government to make arrangement for payment of dues of farmers at the earliest.